

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed November 22, 2004 has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status and Amendment to the Claims

Claims 17-18, 22, 26-29, 31, 35, and 38 are now pending.

Claims 46-64 were withdrawn from consideration as the result of an earlier restriction requirement.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowability of claims 17-18, 22, 26-29, 31, 35, and 38, subject to their re-writing in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-16, 19-21, 23-25, 30, 32-34, 36-37, and 39-45 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicant explicitly reserves the right to file Continuation and/or Divisional applications to pursue any canceled or withdrawn claims.

Claims 17-18, 22, 26-29, 31, 35, and 38 have been re-written into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Objections to the Specification

The abstract of the disclosure stands objected to because it contains more than 150 words. A new ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE which is within 150 words is submitted herewith.

The title of the invention stands objected to because it is allegedly not descriptive. The title of the invention has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

The 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection and the 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Chen et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,400,826), among which claims 1 and 8 are independent claims. In addition, Claims 15-16, 19-21, 23-25, 30, 32-34, 36, 37, and 39-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Chen et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,400,826) in view of Rodriguez et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,650,761), among which claims 30 and 34 are independent claims.

As noted above, the claims indicated as allowable have been rewritten into independent form such that they including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, and all of the rejected claims have been canceled, without prejudice. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims based on the prior art be withdrawn.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

Dated: February 22, 2005



Masako Ando

Limited Recognition under 37 CFR §10.9(b)

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